

Honorable John A. McCone  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McCone:

Your agency is an important element of the executive branch of the Federal Government participating in the National Defense Executive Reserve program.

A National Training Conference of the members of the Executive Reserve is planned here in Washington on October 22, 1962. I am informed that these national conferences have in the past failed to meet their full purpose and objective because they consisted in the main of a series of lectures to the Reservists.

In planning the October 22nd Conference, we are endeavoring to provide a worthwhile learning experience for the Reservists who will be attending from all parts of the country. The President shares the hope that this Conference can contribute to our total preparedness effort.

It is our tentative plan to hold the forenoon session of the Conference in the Interdepartmental Auditorium and to present to the Reservists at that time a briefing on the international situation, our general defense posture, and the broad outlines of their role in the Government in an emergency.

In the afternoon, each of the sixteen units will meet separately with the respective departments and agencies to which they are attached. I am particularly concerned that these afternoon sessions be more than a continuation of the morning briefings. They should be "shirt-sleeve" work sessions. Each department and agency, of course, should plan for its Reservists the afternoon program best adapted to its own requirements. Our concern is simply that it be

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the best possible program, and that it involve some actual participation in the types of emergency assignments that the Reservists would, in fact, be called upon to perform.

To assure a coordinated program, the Office of Emergency Planning will soon call another meeting of the Interagency Committee on the National Defense Executive Reserve. At that time your representative on that Committee should be prepared to present on your behalf a plan outlining the afternoon program as it would be carried forward in your department. This matter has already been discussed with the Interagency Committee.

It would be helpful if you would convey to those responsible for your Executive Reserve program the sense of urgency which, I believe you will agree, attaches to having a well-planned and productive October Conference. This action on your part will be a major contribution toward that objective.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Edward A. McDermott